

### **Remarks**

Applicant amends the claims prior to examination on the merits. The amendments conform the claims to a format more common in the United States, without narrowing the scope thereof. In addition, new claims 17-20 have been added, addressing the subject matter of claim 16 in non-multiple-dependent form, again without narrowing the scope thereof. No new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the amendments prior to examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

**COATS & BENNETT P.L.L.C.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John R. Owen', is written over the printed name.

John R. Owen

Registration No. 42,055

Telephone: (919) 854-1844